

TERM DATES 2025 – 2026



Christmas Holidays 2025-26

Break up: Fri 19th December at 2.30pm

Return on: Mon 5th January

February Half Term 2026:

Break up: Fri 13th February

Return on: Mon 23rd February

Easter Holidays 2026:

Break up: Fri 27th March at 2.30pm

Return on: Mon 13th April

*Friday 1st May is a non-pupil day
Monday 4th May is a Bank Holiday*

May Half Term 2026:

Break up: Thurs 21st May

Fri 22nd May is a non-pupil day

Return on: Mon 1st June

Summer Holidays 2026:

Break up: Fri 17th July at 2.30 pm

Mon 20th July is a non-pupil day

TERM DATES 2026 – 2027

September 2026:

Return on: Thurs 3rd Sept

Tues 1st is a non-pupil day

Weds 2nd is a non-pupil day

October Half Term 2026:

Break up: Fri 23rd October

Return on: Mon 2nd November

Christmas Holidays 2026-27

Break up: Fri 18th December at 2.30pm

Return on: Tues 5th January

Monday 4th Jan is a non-pupil day

February Half Term 2027:

Break up: Fri 12th February

Return on: Mon 22nd February

Easter Holidays 2027:

Break up: Thu 25th March at 2.30pm

Return on: Mon 12th April

*Friday 30th April is a non-pupil day
Monday 3rd May is a Bank Holiday*

May Half Term 2027:

Break up: Thurs 27th May

Return on: Mon 7th June

Fri 28th May is a non-pupil day

Summer Holidays 2027:

Break up: Weds 21st July at 2.30 pm

Please note that after-school wrap-around care will not be available on Friday 12th December 2025 (school pantomime day)

We hope that by giving families plenty of notice, alternative arrangements can be made.
Thank you for your understanding.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We began the week thinking about saints. The Chaplaincy team supported me in displaying and sharing stories about some modern saints: Saint Padre Pio, Saint Mother Teresa, Saint Carlo Acutis, Saint Josephine Bakhita and our own Saint Teresa of Lisieux. We reflected on their lives and explored how these holy men and women lived with joy, fulfilling God's work here on earth.

We listened to scripture from the Beatitudes, which guide us in how we should live, and we prayed a litany together, asking the saints to help and guide us this week at school.



Rehearsals have begun for the upcoming Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) Christmas concert. This concert is a joint school's concert, each school performs songs and also contributes to a nativity play. It is always such a joyful and moving way to mark the beginning of Advent. I can't wait to see all the hard work come together over the next few weeks. My sincere thanks go to Mrs Herron and Ms Congdon for leading this event. You don't need to have a child performing to attend - the concert is held at St Benedict's College on the evening of 28th November, tickets will go on sale soon. It really is a fabulous evening.

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome two visitors to school. Firstly, one of our parent Governors, Mrs Boboe, who spent the day with our Reception and Nursery children to learn more about Early Years provision. We were also visited by our Primary Link Advisor from Brentwood Diocese, who met with a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils to talk about the school's Catholic life and standards in RE. Our visitor was particularly impressed by how confidently the children could talk about their successes in RE and what they need to do to improve even further.

Today, we have stood in solidarity with the people of Jamaica and the wider Caribbean in the aftermath of the terrible hurricane that has caused so much devastation. I was deeply moved by how many children asked what we could do to help. Together, we decided to hold a non-uniform day and raise money through donations, alongside a day of repeated prayer. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

The Caribbean theme continues this weekend, as the parish is hosting a Caribbean Night here at school on Saturday- please see the Church newsletter for further details.

Our Year 4 pupils enjoyed a wonderful trip to Flatford Mill this week to deepen their learning about rivers and Year 5 took part in a creative workshop led by Ignition Arts, exploring what mental health is. Over the coming weeks the children will be learning strategies to support their own mental wellbeing. Pupils also represented the school at the Panathlon Ten Pin sporting event and had a fantastic time. Meanwhile our sporting events continue with a home football match vs Bishop William Ward after school today. Good luck St Teresa's!

Looking ahead to next week, pupils in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be heading to the cinema at First Site to take part in this year's Into Film Festival. A trip to the cinema is a wonderful way to develop cultural capital: the experience of watching a story unfold on the big screen, through image, sound and character, enhances pupils' understanding of storytelling and narrative structure. Experiences like these support our ongoing Catholic mission to nurture the whole child - academically, socially, emotionally and culturally.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

God Bless, Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before ½ term %	This week %
Reception	94.6	96.2
Year 1	96.7	97.0
Year 2	96.3	96.3
Year 3	95.6	98.1
Year 4	95.8	97.2
Year 5	94.2	90.6
Year 6	97.2	93.8
Whole School total:	95.8	95.6

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Year 3 for highest attendance this week!



Menus

Lunch Menu

Next week is Week 2

Wraparound Menu

Next week is Week 2

Nursery Snack Menu

Next week is Week 2

Please visit the school website to view the menus:

<https://www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Menus&pid=72>



Breakfast Club

Early Bird Breakfast club starts at 7.30am with food served until 8.30am.

Universal Free Breakfast Club opens at 8:15am with children escorted to class up till 8.45am

Breakfast club



School Meals

The dinner menus are available on the school website and via Seesaw



After School Club - 3.15 - 6.00pm

Places for the after-school club must be booked via your child's ParentPay account (or by contacting the office for nursery children).

The cost is £9 per child per session YR - Y6

£16.50 per nursery child per full session and £8.25 per nursery child per half session



Remember to check Seesaw and the website for useful information, letters and dates!

We are occasionally asked to promote activities/clubs etc. from local groups. Such activities are not quality assured by the school and parents should be aware of the need to reassure themselves of the quality and safety of the services on offer, for example by visiting, looking at inspection reports etc.

AUTUMN TERM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Monday 10 th November	Liturgical Dance Day at St. Teresa's (selected pupils)		
Monday 10 th November	Odd Socks Day for anti-bullying week		
Tuesday 11 th November	Year 3 and 4 trip to First Site to watch 'Dog Man'		
Wednesday 12 th November	Year 5 and 6 trip to First Site to watch 'Wicked'		
Thursday 13 th November	Lantern Making Workshop (selected Y4 and Y5 pupils)		
Friday 14 th November	Child In Need Day - Wear pyjamas to school (no slippers please)		
Tuesday 18 th November	12.30 - 3.00pm Flu Vaccination catch up session		
Wednesday 19 th November	Year 5 Trip to Imperial War Museum, Duxford		
Friday 21 st November	EYFS Super Me Day!		
Wednesday 26 th November	Year 5 and 6 cross country competition School Mass in Church - wear red for RED Wednesday		
Friday 28 th November	Joint Schools Concert at St. Benedict's College (selected pupils)		
Tuesday 2 nd December	Sir Bob Russell to visit Year 1 and present Twinkle Star Bookmarks		
Wednesday 3 rd December	Years 4, 5 and 6 Reconciliation in School		
Friday 5 th December	FOST Advent Fayre and Christmas Bake-off		
Monday 8 th December	9.00 - 9.30am iRock end of term Christmas performance in assembly		
Wednesday 10 th December	FOST Christmas Discos - timings TBC		
Friday 12 th December	Whole School trip to the Mercury Theatre - Christmas Pantomime (<i>no wraparound</i>)		
Monday 15 th December	2.00pm	EYFS Nativity Performance	
Tuesday 16 th December	2.00pm	EYFS Nativity Performance	
Wednesday 17 th December	2.00pm 5.00pm	KS1 afternoon Nativity Performance KS1 evening Nativity Performance	
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner Day Whole School Board Games Afternoon		
Friday 19 th December	1.30pm 2.30pm	Whole School Christingle Service Early finish - break up for Christmas Holidays (<i>no wraparound</i>)	



Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week 10th - 14th November

Anti-bullying week take place from Monday 10th - Friday 14th November. On Monday 10th November we are delighted to be welcoming Blu from Andy and the Odd Socks into school to lead an assembly. **We would like to invite all of the children to wear Odd Socks on that day** as it is a great way celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week! (No monetary donations required).



Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile initiative.

Children's Speech and Language Therapy School Age Advice line

NHS

**East Suffolk and
North Essex**
NHS Foundation Trust


Need Advice About Your Child's Development?


If your child has a **North Essex GP** and is **not currently known to our service**, our **Advice Line** is here to help!


Call us on 01206 742 488 every Tuesday from 2pm until 3.30pm.

Whether you're a **parent, school staff member, or health professional**, you can speak directly with a **Speech and Language Therapist** for practical guidance and support.

We offer advice on:

 **Strategies, activities and games** you can try

 **If a referral is needed** and what is expected at what age

 **Signposting** to other helpful services if needed

Please note that referrals cannot be taken via the advice line.

Children's Therapy and Continence service

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Speech and Language Pre-school Drop-in Clinic

**Worried about your child's speech and language development?
Drop in for a quick play-based check with a Speech and Language Therapist.**

- For pre-school age children registered with a North Essex GP
- No referral needed - just turn up
- First come, first served
- If busy, you may be asked to return another day or call our telephone drop in line

Note, this is for children **not** currently under Speech and Language Therapy

Every Tuesday

9.00am-12.00pm

Berechurch Family Hub, Monkwick, Colchester CO2 8NN

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month

12:30pm -3.00pm

Greenstead Family Hub Delivery Site, Greenstead Community Centre, Colchester CO4 3QE

2nd & 4th Thursday of the month

9.00am -12.00pm

Sydney House Family Hub, Clacton on Sea CO16 7PA

1st Friday of the month

10.00am – 1.00pm

Harwich Family Hub Delivery Site, Harwich House, Mayflower Primary School, Harwich CO12 4AJ

t: 01206 742 960

www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk



Services commissioned by:

Caretaker News

Our wonderful caretaker Mr Price is leaving us at the end of November- he's decided it's time to start easing himself into retirement by cutting down! We will be very sad to see him go but no one deserves a rest and an opportunity to travel more than Mr Price!

So now our search begins for a new Caretaker- if you know anyone who may be suitable, please do share the link to our new vacancy.

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=114472>



Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal



As you are aware our prefects have been selling poppies and various other items in support of the Royal British Legion's Annual Poppy Appeal. These will be available again on Wednesday, so if you would like your child to purchase a poppy please can you ensure that they have the amount that you would like them to donate in a clearly marked envelope (particularly for the younger children), or that they are aware what the money you are giving them is for! Thank you in advance for your support of this worthwhile cause.

As has been our usual custom, we will, like the rest of the nation, be remembering those who have died as a result of war. During our assembly on Monday morning the whole school will observe a two-minute silence. To help mark the occasion we are also inviting all pupils who belong to uniformed organisations, such as Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, Guides, etc. to wear their uniform to school that day. In addition to displaying respect for the fallen in war, it will also highlight the contribution that young people in uniformed organisations make with regards to the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Wearing their uniform is also a way of highlighting the existence of such organisations. All other pupils will be required to wear their normal school uniform / PE kit that day.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION - SEPTEMBER 2026

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opens on **Monday 10th November 2025**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026.

THE STATUTORY NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 15 JANUARY 2025.

From **10th November 2025**, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Please be aware that Essex County Council are not sending letters to parents about making an application. All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Information regarding admissions can also be found by visiting our school website www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk and following the links to 'Key Information' - 'Admissions'.

Certificates of Catholic Practice

Father Matthias has asked us to let parents know that they should contact him by email via the Church to arrange a time to get Certificates of Catholic Practice signed - thank you.

Parish Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 29th November from 11am - 2pm

The parish bazaar is fast approaching!

As in previous years the school will be running a toiletries / stationery tombola. Please can we ask for your support by sending in donations for this stall? Traditionally we ask EYFS and KS1 families to donate toiletries and KS2 families to donate stationery items. These can be large or small items and suitable for both children and adults.

The parish are also asking for donations of chocolate or items for the bottle stall.

Donations can be placed in the marked box in the entrance area of the school - thank you.

Thank you in advance for helping the school to support the parish in this way.



Children in Need

Donations to Children in Need can be made via ParentPay using this link:
<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=18948>

We would also be delighted to receive cash donations on the day.

Thank you in advance for your support.

HELP CHILDREN IN NEED!!!!

Wear PJs on the 14th of November 2025

PLEASE DONATE £1 OR MORE TO WEAR YOUR PYJAMAS TO
SCHOOL

NO SLIPPERS ALLOWED!

YOUR VOICE WILL BE ORGANISING A ' CHALLENGE 25 '
TREASURE HUNT AT THE SCHOOL ON THE DAY.



Together, we can
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY ALICE AND WILLIAM YEAR 4 YOUR VOICE REPRESENTATIVES



We are excited to invite all children to take part in our Playground Design Competition!

We want their brilliant ideas on how we can make our playground an even more fun, inclusive and inspiring space for everyone to enjoy.

What you need to do:

Create and submit a design of what you think our dream playground should look like! Ensure you write your name and class on your entry.

A bird's-eye view of the current playground will be uploaded to Seesaw to help children with their designs. We encourage you to think creatively about areas for all year groups, making sure that everyone can play, explore and feel included.

Would you like a sand pit? A climbing frame? Quiet zones? Water play? Bikes and scooters? Or something else...

Entries can be hand-drawn, models or a digital design; these can be submitted via Seesaw or can be brought into school.

Our closing date for competition entries is Monday 10th November.

Our winning designers will be invited to join our brand-new 'Playground Design Team', helping to shape the next phase of our playground improvements.

Good luck- Mrs Maguire and Mrs Herron

Consultation on Admissions

In accordance with the Schools Admissions Code, the Governing Body of St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Colchester, wishes to consult with stakeholders and the wider community on their proposals to modify their admission arrangements for the academic year 2027 - 28.

As determined by the Schools Admissions Code, this consultation is for parents / carers of children aged 2 - 18, other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements, all other admissions authorities within the local area, the local authority and the Diocese of Brentwood.

The statutory six-week consultation period will run from 5th November 2025 - 17th December 2025. A copy of the consultation can be found on the school website www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk under 'Key Information' - 'Admissions'.

Comments on the proposal to revise the Admissions Criteria are invited and will be considered and used by the Governing Body to inform their final decision on whether to implement the proposed revisions.

Consultation responses should be made in writing to St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Clairmont Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9BE or by email to office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

The closing date for responses to be received is 16th December 2025.



CHURCH AND PARISH NEWS

First Holy Communion programme 2025/6

Sessions – 9.15am – 10.45 am St. Teresa’s school (pick up from the church)
NB the first session will only take place in the church.

Reconciliation

15/11/25 - God gives you joy and peace
13/12/25 - God gives you forgiveness
10/1/26 – We walk with Jesus

Communion

24/1/26 – We walk with Jesus

7/2/26 - We learn about the mass & We share God’s word.
28/2/26- We give thanks & We remember and celebrate.
21/3/26- We share the bread of life
25/4/26 - Retreat 10 -2pm (children to bring a packed lunch) –
16/5/26 - Reconciliation session – times to be advised

First Holy communion rehearsal

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 @6.00pm -Group 1
@7.00pm-Group 2

June 7th 2026 First Holy Communion service –9am and 11am (in normal mass)

Going Forth Mass – June 14th @ 9.00am



Parish Events

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR ON 29th NOVEMBER FROM 11.00AM - 2.00PM

Preparations are under way for this year’s Bazaar and flyers will be handed out. We would be grateful for donations of chocolate and bottles for the tombola, good quality nearly new items, good quality clean children’s toys and books. Please leave donations in the box in the Church foyer. Thank you for your generosity.





Essex Child and Family
Wellbeing Service



SCHOOL AGE COMMUNITY DROP IN AT CHANGING LIVES

Monday 10th Nov 3:30 - 5:30pm

The School Age team at Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services will provide two weekly drop-ins within our Family Hubs across Colchester and Tendring. One of these is for parents and a second for young people. The Family Hub drop-in is available for all young people including those who may be home educated or unable to access the support they require in the school environment. No need book, just come along.

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Improving sleep
- Nutrition support
- Physical and sexual health
- Health needs assessment
- Personal hygiene
- Managing health conditions
- Signposting, advice and support



47 Crouch Street, Colchester, CO3 3EN

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FREE**

CONTACT US :

REGISTER NOW

email : gym@clcs.org.uk

 **Active Essex
Foundation**